



Factors affecting length of stay in teaching hospitals of a middle-income country

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Abstract

Introduction: The length of stay (LOS) in hospitals is a widely used and important criteria for evaluating hospital performance. The aim of this study was to determine factors affecting LOS in teaching hospitals of Qazvin Providence.

Methods: In this cross-sectional study, patients' health records were randomly selected from archives in teaching hospitals of Qazvin in 2013. Data were collected through a data entry form and were analyzed using Kolmogorov–Smirnov, Kruskal–Wallis, and Mann–Whitney U tests at the significant level of 0.05.

Results: The mean of hospital LOS was 5.45 ± 6.14 days. Age, employment, marital status, history of previous admission, patient condition at discharge, method of payment, and type of treatment had an impact on LOS ($p < 0.05$). Other factors, including gender, place of residence, and type of admission, did not affect LOS.

Conclusion: Because hospitals consume a perceptible part of resources in a health system, controlled and optimized use of its resources help to save a lot. Therefore, this study showed many clinical and nonclinical factors affect LOS in evaluating these factors, which may reduce inappropriate hospital stays and decrease costs.

Keywords: Length of stay, Clinical and nonclinical factors, Hospital performance, Teaching hospital